

# SECURE DIGITAL APPLIANCE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING DIGITAL CONTENT

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and apparatus for protecting digital content. A secure digital  
appliance is disclosed for receiving communications coupled over a  
communication network. A private key of a private key and public key pair is  
stored in the secure digital appliance in such a way that the stored private key  
cannot be obtained by tampering with the secure digital appliance. Upon  
10 receipt of a session initiation message that is encrypted using the public key (of  
the private key and public key pair) the secure digital appliance decrypts the  
session initiation message using the stored private key to obtain a session key.  
The session key is then used to decrypt communications that include encrypted  
digital content. The secure digital appliance includes a local output device  
15 (e.g., a TV screen and/or speakers) that is operable to provide protected output  
of the digital content. The secure digital appliance does not contain any  
provision for output other than the protected output of digital content. Because  
the secure digital appliance does not allow for any output of the digital content  
other than the protected output, the end user cannot obtain a high quality digital  
20 copy of the digital content. Therefore, there is little chance that the security of  
digital content will be compromised.